



Supporting
Lifelong Learning

Howick Inc.
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November 2022



COMMITTEE 2021/2022

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JUDITH NEL *Director of Studies*
MARY KENNEDY *Newsletter Editor*
JUNE POOLE *Membership*
JOHN SAVORY *Speaker Convenor*

Next General Meeting: Christmas Meeting
Monday 12 December 9.30am
Howick Bowling Club
Speakers: Jan Beaumont
Young-at-Heart Chorus

For new members: Annual \$25.00 subscription is payable to U3A Howick bank account: 12 3040 0556154 00, using your surname as a reference.

Just a short newsletter this month. Only a few groups are meeting in December – details I have received are summarised below, but check with your convenor if you are unsure. This will be our last general meeting of the year before the Christmas Festivities begin. Happy holidays everyone.

November Speaker: Raewyn Proctor

Raewyn's talk was received with interest, with members asking a variety of questions. Raewyn pointed out that, in order to make it easier for our loved ones, we should plan for death, letting them know if you want to be buried or cremated and where you would like to have your funeral. It is useful to give details of parents' names and occupation to be included with the death certificate. It is also important to have a will, and to choose your executor carefully. You can state your wishes for your funeral, but these can be over-ridden by family or the executor. In the event of disputes the funeral directors are available to mediate.

There is a surprising amount of paperwork to be completed after we die. More paperwork is needed for cremation than for burial, and a doctor must state that he has seen the body before a death certificate can be issued. In the case of sudden death, a Coroner's report is required. If you wore a pacemaker, a certificate must be issued to say it has been removed. (Other body parts, such as knees or hips, are OK apparently.) The funeral home will put a notice in the newspaper, and perform any other administrative tasks required.

Funerals are not cheap. Even if you are to be cremated, you will need a casket, which range in price from \$4500 to \$6500. If the body is to be viewed it will need to be embalmed, and the service itself will be added to the total cost which averages at around \$12,000. Burial will be more expensive, and it costs between \$7000 and \$14000 to purchase a plot. You cannot be buried in the back garden, although you can be buried at sea if you have access to a helicopter! There is an asset-tested funeral grant available, and if you have been in a rest home, the government will leave \$10000 in your estate to pay for a basic funeral. There is a club, the Coffin Club, where you can learn to make your own coffin.

Ashes must be dealt with considerately. Scattering at public reserves or beaches is no longer allowed, but if no-one is around the ashes are not detrimental to soil. You can keep some ashes in an attractive glass globe. Ashes can be transported overseas but you need to obtain a certificate from the funeral director, in case they get mistaken for cocaine.

Raewyn finished by offering us a useful booklet we can use to prepare for our funeral, which we can keep at home for our relatives, who can, of course, choose their own funeral director.

December Speaker: Jan Beaumont



When Jan Beaumont sat down on her couch in late March 2020, little did she realise how her life would change in the next year.

Three days before, the Prime Minister had announced that NZ would go into lockdown for 4 weeks as a result of Covid 19. Jan had never written a poem before but something about the situation inspired her to write 'Let's All Drink to Lockdown'. Within days it had gone viral and was read by thousands of people around the world. And there the story starts ..."
Jan will be talking about her poetry and her story.

Jan's presentation will be followed by the **NZ Young at Heart Chorus** singing some cheerful songs. You have to be 70 years or older to join this singing group, so some of our members may be keen to become members of this singing group.

There will be no group reports at the Christmas meeting.

From the Committee:

Christmas Function: All members are cordially invited to attend the Christmas meeting on Monday 12 December. The entry fee is \$5.00. You can pay online to:

Howick U3A 12 3040 0556154 00 before **Wednesday 7 December 2022**, and put your name in the reference field. Alternatively, you can pay on the day.

Raffle: Tickets will be \$5 each and you are welcome to buy as many as you like. You could win one of 8 lovely prizes. Bring cash with you to the meeting. Half of the money raised will be going to the NZ Cancer Society.

Renaissance: 5 U3A Howick members have already booked for the Renaissance exhibition on 11 Jan at 5.15pm. Others are welcome to join us.

Website: Garry Law has set up a website where interesting power points etc will be available to members. Click on the link to see what's there. [U3A Papers \(lawas.co.nz\)](http://U3A Papers (lawas.co.nz)) Two new talks have been added: one on the Trans-Siberian Express and one on understanding the brain.

Interest Groups: A book for proposing new interest groups will be on the front table at general meetings. So far two new groups – *New Zealand History 2* and *Mobile phone photography* have already started (see timetable) and two further proposed groups, *Writing2/memoirs* and *gardening*. Please contact Judith Nel to put your name down.

Bruce McLaren theatre: A reminder for convenors of groups that use BM Theatre for their meetings: You will need to fill in the theatre diary and also inform the office of your monthly meetings for the next year.



Out and about:

- Freida Kahlo and Diego Rivera: Art and life in Modern Mexico – Auckland Art gallery until 22 January. Book through Eventfinda
- Renaissance : The Age of Genius – media production showcasing famous renaissance artists. Aotea Centre 4 to 29 January. Book at Auckland Live.
- Auckland Arts Festival 9 to 26 March 2023. See aaf.co.nz for the full line-up
- The ten tenors will be performing at the Aotea Centre 28 to 30 April 2023. Ticket sales open 5 December. Book through Auckland Live.
- An evening with Michael Pollan: How to change your mind. “ Join immersive journalist and best-selling Author...for an evening that will change the way you see food, drugs and how the human and natural worlds intersect” Auckland Town Hall Friday 5 May.



Groups	Date 2022	Venue	Topic	Convenor
Architecture 1 st Fri 10 am	December 2	15 Gillett Place	Pot Pourri	June Lamborn 535 8069
Famous & Infamous 1 1 st Thurs 10 am	December 1	1 Lodge Lane PPV	“Famous to me” Pot Pourri	Gill Muggleston 534 9863
History of New Zealand 2 nd Thurs 10 am	December 8	795 Chapel Road	Pot pourri	Alan La Roche 534 7366
Military History 2 nd Thursday 2pm	December 1	4A Paton’s Road	Memories of a World War2 test pilot	Allan Reid 5349895
Movies 2 nd Mon, 12.30 pm	December 12	2/21 Drake Street , Howick	Discussion of movies seen BYO Lunch	Margaret Nicholls 536 6709
Opera 1 2 nd Tuesday 9.30	December 13	BM Theatre	Yeoman of the Guard – Gilbert and Sullivan	Rosemary Ovens 5343429
Philosophy 1 st Mon 10 am	December 5	55 Rodney Street	Pot pourri	Cora Young 5348623
Sunday Discussion 2 nd Sun noon	December 11	Dannemora Gardens Cafe		Joan Clarkson 537 6397
Walks and Talks 2 nd Fri 9.30 am	December 9	Meet at far end of Howick Beach then morning tea at 9 Tranquillity rise.	Howick	June Poole 021583893 Goeff 0211154560

**Merry
Christmas**

